



## CITY OF GILLETTE

# Stormwater Fact Sheet

Water is precious. Managing the quality and conveyance of our stormwater is an important aspect for achieving our City Goals.

The City of Gillette is addressing several issues caused by unmanaged stormwater. Improved management of stormwater related infrastructure will increase the quality of our water.

## WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Once rain falls from the sky, it runs off from impervious surfaces such as roads, parking lots, and rooftops as well as from pervious surfaces including lawns, fields, and forests. Runoff is commonly referred to as stormwater.

Stormwater runoff in Gillette ends up in Fishing Lake, Stonepile Creek, Donkey Creek, and eventually the Belle Fourche River. When stormwater runs off impervious surfaces, it carries with it soil and pollutants which eventually impact the health of Gillette's waterways.

## STORMWATER ISSUES

Stormwater issues fall into two general categories: quality and quantity. As stormwater flows over surfaces, it picks up chemicals and pollutants including oils and greases, fertilizers, pesticides, and sediment. These pollutants eventually end up in our lakes, ponds, and streams, often resulting in degradation of these precious resources. Furthermore, the quantity of stormwater runoff increases dramatically as pervious lands are developed into impervious surfaces, which then increases the risk of flooding, as shown in the photo to the right.



AN EXAMPLE OF FLOODING WHICH CAN BE CAUSED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF IMPERVIOUS SURFACES.

## GILLETTE'S STORMWATER RESPONSIBILITIES

The City is responsible for numerous stormwater-related activities including: Capital Construction (current or recently completed projects include Emerson Box Culvert, 3rd Street Storm Drainage, Hunt Street Drainage, Flying Circle Drainage, Sunburst Drainage Improvements, Westover/Overdale Detention Basin Design, Vivian Storm Drainage Improvements), Maintenance (Storm Drains and Sewers, Culverts, Detention Cells, Streams), Drainage Complaint Response, Floodplain Mapping, Street Sweeping, and Permit Compliance (in coming years).

## HOW IS GILLETTE ADDRESSING THE ISSUES?

The City has retained the services of URS Corporation, an environmental engineering firm, to assist the City with the development of a Stormwater Management Program. Components of the program include:

- Address water quantity by performing hydrologic and hydraulic modeling to prioritize and develop system improvements
- Address water quality by developing an Erosion and Sediment Control Manual
- Develop a comprehensive Stormwater Ordinance
- Implement an effective public education and involvement program to inform citizens and stakeholders of the purpose and importance of the City's Stormwater Management Program

## WHAT IS A STORMWATER ORDINANCE?

A Stormwater Ordinance is a set of water quality and quantity policies, adopted by the City, which applies to all surface waters to provide reasonable guidance for the regulation of stormwater runoff to protect our local water resources from degradation.

## MEETING GILLETTE'S GOALS

The establishment of a Stormwater Ordinance will serve as an essential component to a comprehensive Stormwater Management Program. The primary goal of the Stormwater Ordinance is to protect public health and safety by regulating stormwater runoff from land development projects, construction activities, and existing urban activities in order to control and minimize flooding, soil and stream channel erosion, and nonpoint source pollution associated with stormwater runoff.

The ordinance will meet the following objectives:

- Protect the integrity of watersheds and preserve the health of water resources by establishing decision making processes for development
- Minimize increases in runoff from development to reduce flooding, siltation, and erosion to maintain the integrity of stream channels
- Improve water quality by minimizing increases in nonpoint source pollution caused by stormwater runoff from development
- Establish minimum post development stormwater management standards and design criteria for the regulation and control of stormwater runoff quantity and quality
- Establish design and review criteria for the construction, function, and use of structural stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) to meet post development stormwater management standards



A STRATEGIC STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM WILL HELP MEET GILLETTE'S GOAL TO PROTECT THE WATER QUALITY IN OUR LAKES AND STREAMS, INCLUDING FISHING LAKE

## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Implementing a strategic public education and outreach program is a critical step in developing a Stormwater Management Program. The City is committed to conducting an extensive and broad program to involve you in the development of the Stormwater Management Program by providing information and opportunities for participation.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information or if you need to report an incident that may negatively impact stormwater, please contact: Joe Lunne, Public Information Officer, 307-686-5393, [joe@ci.gillette.wy.us](mailto:joe@ci.gillette.wy.us)

If you would like to receive further information on the Stormwater Management Program, please visit [www.ci.gillette.wy.us](http://www.ci.gillette.wy.us)

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

We encourage you to participate by completing an online survey regarding stormwater management in the City. The survey can be accessed by visiting the City's website, [www.ci.gillette.wy.us](http://www.ci.gillette.wy.us).